

Consideration of recommendation of dedication of *JD Marshall* Underwater Nature Preserve in Porter County

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program in the Division of Nature Preserves is working to seek designation under IC 14-31-1 of the first underwater nature preserve in Indiana. Among the purposes for which a nature preserve may be dedicated is to “promote understanding and appreciation of the esthetic, cultural, scientific, and spiritual values of the areas by the people of Indiana.” IC 14-31-1-7(7). The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, the Division of Law Enforcement, the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, the Lake Michigan Coastal Program, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife are partners in the effort. Each of these divisions is involved in the development process and would lend long-term support to management. The underwater preserve would encompass the area surrounding the *JD Marshall* shipwreck. The *JD Marshall* sank in 1911, and four lives were lost. The shipwreck rests in approximately 30 feet of water. The proposed underwater preserve is adjacent to Indiana Dunes State Park. The Advisory Council is requested to recommend to the Natural Resources Commission that it approve the dedication.